

## Live OnLine Lessons - Quick Guide

### Before the first lesson:

- Become familiar with Skype
- Schedule a training session with the Director of Individual Instruction
- Observe OnLine lessons (professional development)
- Enter your student's Skype address into your contacts
- Set-up for the lesson (typically takes less than 2 minutes once familiar with set up)
- Have all materials on hand

### Best Practices – Teaching Tips

- 1. Express yourself**  
How is your Online presence? Don't be afraid to look at your picture so see what your face and body language say to your student. Enthusiasm and authenticity go a long way in engaging your student. . Consider moving the camera to show your face, close up of finger technique, position of instrument etc.
- 2. Play more, talk less**  
Student listening tends to be heightened in OnLine sessions. Take advantage of this opportunity with lots of musical demonstration. The most effective OnLine teachers have brief, frequent musical exchanges with their students.
- 3. Communicate succinctly and precisely.**  
Because you can't physically open a book for a student or point to a specific measure, clear, sequential, staggered instructions are extremely important OnLine. OnLine teaching develops independence in our students. Find ways to support this.
- 4. Show that you care.**  
All relationships require trust to thrive – look for ways to connect with the student. Acknowledge their location and physical surroundings. Get to know them as people.
- 5. Student ownership**  
Being physically separated from the instructor can encourage more responsibility in learning. Empowering the student can have big pay offs in between lessons. Seize the opportunity. Students must mark their own scores, take their own notes.
- 6. Know the limits**  
Because of the delay, it is impossible to play in ensemble. It is confusing to your student if you count, tap or sing while the student is playing because he/she will hear this a half second later. Find work arounds. Be creative

7. **Stay organized**  
Don't get caught without the score in hand. Number the measures ahead of time (both your copy and the student's copy). Consider using the app "**Turbo Scan**" to share music before the lesson. Think creatively how to use props to facilitate deeper learning.
8. **Develop strategies for pacing the lesson**  
Lesson pacing can be slower OnLine, particularly for younger students. Think of ways to move things along. Ask your students to have certain materials 'on hand" at each lesson: metronome, pencils, highlighters etc. Create and share cues so the student knows when to stop playing.
9. **Be resourceful**  
Consider how to develop the whole musician in this somewhat limited environment:
  - Encourage your student to be involved in ensembles
  - Create backing tracks for the student to work with at home
  - Create an OnLine note keeping system: One Note or EverNote
  - Use game based learning (Staff Wars, Note Works)
10. **Create a contingency plan**  
Decide how you will contact each other in the event of a technological glitch.
11. **Be realistic about the technology**  
As teachers we are already the masters of trouble shooting – seeing a challenge and finding a way to overcome it right in the moment. Expect technical glitches and approach these as you would any other challenge. Use MacPhail Faculty as resources.

#### Student Opportunities Beyond the Lesson

- Crescendo
- Performances
- vRecitals